

MESSAGE

FROM THE

PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES,

In compliance with a resolution of the Senate,

RELATING

TO THE ACCOUNTS AND OFFICIAL CONDUCT

OF

THOMAS A. SMITH,

RECEIVER OF PUBLIC MONEYS, FRANKLIN, MISSOURI.

MAY 24, 1828.

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WASHINGTON:

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To the Senate of the United States:

WASHINGTON, *May* 23, 1828.

In compliance with a resolution of the Senate of the 8th instant, relating to the accounts and official conduct of Thomas A. Smith, Receiver of Public Moneys, at Franklin, Missouri, I transmit, herewith, a report from the Secretary of the Treasury, with documents containing the information desired by the resolution.

JOHN QUINCY ADAMS.

TREASURY DEPARTMENT,

22d May, 1828.

The Secretary of the Treasury, to whom was referred a resolution of the Senate of the 8th instant, "requesting the President of the United States to cause an answer to be given to that part of the resolution of the Senate of the 14th of March last, which required information of the time of receiving the respective balances in the hands of the Receiver at Franklin, Missouri, at the end of each quarter of the years 1824, 1825, 1826, and 1827; and, also, to that part requiring the date of each deposit made by him, with a copy of the certificate of deposit alleged to have been made at New Orleans, under date of 31st of December, 1827; also, at what time the last account current of that officer, under date of 31st of December last, was received at the General Land Office; and whether that account had been allowed at the Treasury when a copy of it was transmitted to the Senate, under the above-mentioned resolution; and, also, that he be requested to cause a report to be made, whether the said Receiver has not discharged the duties of his said office with fidelity and punctuality, and to the entire satisfaction of the government," has the honor to report to the President:

That, from the monthly accounts current of the Receiver at Franklin, Missouri, transmitted to the Senate in compliance with its former resolution of the 14th of March last, and numbered from 1 to 49, it will be seen that, at the end of the month for which each account current is respectively made out, the Receiver credits the United States with the aggregate amount of moneys received by him on account of the sales of public lands during the month, without specifying the particular days of the month on which the various sums constituting that amount, may have been received. In like manner, he charges, at the end of the month, the amount of his payments and deposits on account of the United States, without reference to the particular days on which the payments or deposits were made. From these accounts current, it will also be seen, that the greater part of the moneys received by this officer, have been drawn out of his hands by drafts of the Treasurer given, from time to time, to persons in that portion of the Union, to whom he had payments to make. These drafts have always been promptly discharged by the Receiver; and they have, it is believed, proved a convenient mode of payment to the persons receiving them, whilst the government has thereby saved the expense which would have been incurred if the money had been deposited in bank. The accounts current, it is believed, furnish the true dates of the money received, and the drafts paid by the Receiver, so far as it regards the month; and except for the four deposits made by him in bank, during the period referred to, contain the only information under this clause of the resolution, which it is in the power of the Department

to afford, without resorting to the quarterly accounts and vouchers of the Receiver, which could not be transcribed in time to be communicated, during the present session of Congress. Copies of two certificates of the said deposits found on file, are herewith transmitted, corresponding in date with the accounts of the Receiver, one of which is for the deposit made at New Orleans, and charged in the account current of the 31st December, 1827.

The information desired, as to the time when the last mentioned account current of the Receiver, under date of the 31st December, 1827, was received, and whether it had been allowed at the Treasury, when the former report of this Department was made to the Senate, will be found in the communication of the Commissioner of the General Land Office, dated the 14th instant, which has already been laid before you. In regard to the last member of the resolution, the Secretary of the Treasury has the honor to report his opinion, that the Receiver at Franklin has discharged the duties of his office with fidelity and punctuality, and to the satisfaction of the Department.

RICHARD RUSH.

The President of the United States.

GENERAL LAND OFFICE,

May 14, 1828.

SIR: I have the honor, in compliance with your request, to return the resolution of the Senate of the 8th inst. relative to the Receiver of Public Moneys at Franklin, and to refer to the report made from this office to the Secretary of the Treasury, on the 21st of March last, as containing the information which this office affords in relation to the resolution of the Senate, bearing date the 14th of March last.

The account current of the Receiver at Franklin, under date of 31st of December last, was received, in a letter from him, bearing date on the 15th of January, 1827. The time of its receipt at this office was not noted. It appears to have been acknowledged on the 29th of March, together with a letter from him, dated the 13th of February, covering his accounts for the month of January last.

The account of the Receiver at Franklin, for December, 1827, had not been settled at the Treasury, when a copy of it was transmitted to the Senate.

With great respect,

Your obedient servant,

GEORGE GRAHAM.

The President of the United States.

GENERAL LAND OFFICE,

21st March, 1828.

SIR: In compliance with a resolution of the Senate, dated the 14th instant, I enclose to you copies of the monthly accounts current rendered by Thomas A. Smith, Receiver of Public Moneys at Franklin, (Mo.) for the years 1824, 1825, 1826, and 1827, which exhibit the amount of money on hand at the termination of each quarter of the years above-mentioned; the time that those amounts were respectively received; and the time that deposits, payments of drafts, and other payments were made by him, during those years. I also enclose an extract from a letter addressed to me by Gen. Smith, assigning the cause of his being in advance for the Government, at the termination of the last quarter in 1827. It may be proper to add, that the returns required by law to be made by the Receivers of Public Moneys, to this Office, have been rendered with accuracy and punctuality by Gen. Smith.

All instructions relative to deposit and the purchase of drafts, are issued immediately from your office.

With great respect, &c.

GEO. GRAHAM.

Hon. RICHARD RUSH,
Secretary of the Treasury.

OFFICE OF DISCOUNT AND DEPOSITE,

Washington, July 2d, 1825.

Thomas A. Smith, Esq. Receiver of Public Moneys at Franklin, Missouri, has deposited in this Office, to the credit of the Treasurer of the United States, one thousand dollars, for which I have signed duplicate receipts.

(Signed)

RICHARD SMITH, *Cash'r.*

\$1,000.

OFFICE BANK UNITED STATES,

New Orleans, Dec. 1st, 1827.

General Thomas A. Smith, Receiver of Public Moneys at Franklin, Missouri, has deposited to the credit of the Treasurer of the United States, forty-six thousand four hundred and thirty-six dollars and twenty-eight cents, for which I have signed duplicate certificates.

(Signed)

S. JAUDON, *Cash'r.*

\$46,436 $\frac{28}{100}$



